

REMARKS AND CONCLUSION

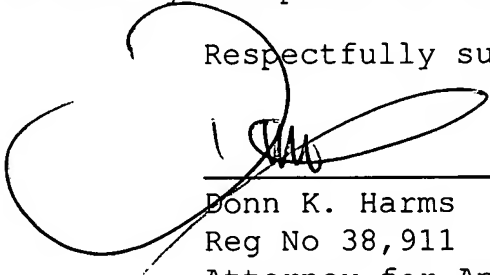
Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the Examiner's view that the language was awkward or unclear in the claims. No new matter has been added to the claims.

The amended claims for clarity more clearly show that Applicants' device claims elements providing function, which are neither taught nor suggested in the cited prior art which teaches against Applicant's construction of forming an uninterrupted flange extending from the first and second ends of a stent formed of both the connectors and spring sections of adjoining segments of each connector therebetween. Neither does it teach or suggest axially aligning the spring sections of adjoining segments with the engaging connectors to form a single uninterrupted flange from the first to the second end of the stent.

Therefor all remaining claims should now be allowable.

Finally, should the Examiner have suggestions to more clearly define the claims to more clearly define the patentable subject matter, and hasten approval, the Applicant's attorney would be most receptive to such by telephone or Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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